

Celebrating 60 Years of Sutherland Group 1963 – 2023

About Sutherland Group

We meet at 7:00 pm every third Wednesday from February to November at Gymea Community Centre, 39 Gymea Bay Rd, Gymea. Visitors welcome.

We support awareness and conservation of Australian native plants.

Visit our [website](http://austplants.com.au/Sutherland) & Facebook

<http://austplants.com.au/Sutherland>



www.facebook.com/APS.Sutherland

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Newsletter Deadline:

Second Wednesday of the month

Coming up..

Wed, 21 Jun
from **7:00 pm**

Sutherland Group Meeting Our summer trip to Charlotte Pass with Liz Aitken At Gymea Community Hall, see diary.

Sun, 2 Jul
Thu, 6 Jul

JB Reserve working bees
more information [here](#)

Wed, 19 July

Sutherland Group Meeting

Look out for..

Grevillea caleyi



G. caleyi at JB Reserve (Ph: P. Shelton)

Sadly, this Grevillea is [listed as critically endangered](#). It is endemic to Northern Sydney (note that the [Northern Beaches district group](#) uses it as their Newsletter logo). There are some nice specimens at JB reserve. This one is flowering now, but is that a late end to last year's flowering, or an early start to next year's? I suppose there are some flowers all year round.

The felt-textured foliage is interesting too, with new leaves red to purple as they develop. It self seeds a bit and is worth growing in a sunny well drained spot to play a part in [the SOS program](#). It just needs a little space to spread a bit, it should not exceed 3 m in height.

Inside this issue

For your diary	2
At the May Meeting	3
News and more	6

For your diary

Contact John Arney ph 9525 0449, johnarney@ozemail.com.au

we follow [APS NSW Health and Safety guidelines](#)

Wed, 21 June

Sutherland group meeting. Our summer trips to Charlotte Pass
Liz Aitken will present a video of APS Sutherland Group's trips to Charlotte Pass in the Snowy Mountains to look at native plants. We have been visiting for a week in summer every 2 years, for over 20 years, with many great memories formed.

After the talk, we'll have our plant table segment which showcases native plants in Shire gardens at this time of year. Bring along a specimen of your own and have it identified. For this month let's try to emphasise Bush food plants you have growing in the Sutherland area. Feel free to accompany specimens by submitting photos for the newsletter.

Please note the new earlier start to our meetings for 2023. The hall will be open at **7 pm**. Our President Leonie Hogue will formally start the meeting at around **7.30 pm**, followed by our speaker. Come from 7 pm for a cup of tea, chat, plants and books, and enjoy the earlier finish.

All visitors welcome **from 7.00 pm** for 7:30 start at
GyMEA Community Hall, 39 GyMEA Bay Rd.

Sun, 2 Jul

Thu, 6 Jul

Joseph Banks Reserve working bees at Manooka Place, Kareela, from 9 am.

We have two working sessions a month at Joseph Banks Reserve – the first Thursday with Bushcare Officer Grace Lonergan and the first Sunday of the month. However, those times do not suit everyone. New staff member at the reserve Polly Simmonds welcomes volunteer support, so if you'd like to help, please drop in and introduce yourself.

Rhonda and Joan Zande are volunteering during the week, and Anne Webb is watering some new plants. A walk around the reserve shows there are many ways to make a difference, whether you like working in the sun or shade, hand weeding or tidying up debris.

We put in lots of new plants at our June sessions. At our Sunday session, it was great to welcome Lucinda (having a break from her usual Bushcare site) and Lillian coming back after Thursday with her son Jack.

Sat, Sun 1,2,8,9 Jul **Illawarra Grevillea Park** open days. Grevillea Park Road, Bulli

Wed, 19 Jul

Sutherland Group Meeting. Story of a Burrawang.

Wed, 5 Jul

Sutherland Group Committee meeting – location TBA. We'll be planning garden visits for later in the year.

Sat, 22 July

Native Bush Food Garden workshop with Narelle Happ at Sydney Wildflower Nursery Heathcote. 10 am to 12 noon

Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=932027&>

Sat, 22 July

from 9 am

A Walk in the Park - Robertsons Roundabout, Audley, Royal National Park

Drive to Audley and into the main visitor area at the Café. Continue on and drive across the wooden bridge (Varney's Bridge) that is about 100m past the café. Once on the western side turn to your right and park in the carpark there. We will be walking up and along a trail that will take us from sea-level to around 140m elevation.

The walk is rated Moderate difficulty with a couple of short Hard sections. The Hard areas consist of well laid sandstone steps, however, some have been impacted by erosion. The Plus is that we will be walking through a very diverse plant community with lots of great plants to see at their "showy best" and there will be many "what's that?" questions to challenge the experts. There are also some rare plants close to the track. We will be armed with plant lists.

Bring along water, morning tea, lunch, your pen. You will have the choice of diving into the plant lists or just come along for this leisurely and very scenic walk.

Contact John Arney 0418 607 685

Other APS groups nearby

Have you considered visiting another local APS group? Each group welcomes APS members and visitors, so check your diary. Please try to confirm meetings at the group sites provided.

Harbour Georges River (formerly East Hills)

Sunday, 2 or 9 July from 10 am - Tour of the GreenWay with IWEG (Inner West Environment Group)

Check their activities page [here](https://austplants.com.au/Harbour-Georges-River/)
<https://austplants.com.au/Harbour-Georges-River/>

Menai Wildflower Group

Usually on the 2nd Saturday of the month (Check links below, closer to the date)

Illawong Rural Fire Brigade
Old Illawarra Rd, Illawong



<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100068944233153>

<https://austplants.com.au/Menai-Wildflower>

Illawarra Group - check for activities at their [web site](#)

At the May meeting

A Bush-Tucker Garden – Samantha Newton, [Tonbo Garden Design](#)

Samantha Newton is an enthusiastic garden designer who has had a life of botany, landscape design, and researching ecological-sustainability issues.

Sam is affiliated with Macquarie University where she was responsible for creating a Bush-Tucker garden on campus. Macquarie University comprises an arboretum as part of its campus and the bush tucker garden was added as a teaching resource and example of how native plants can be used for culinary and medicinal purposes.

Sam was basically given free-range to convert an old unwanted car park in a very shady area (beneath a 4-storey building to the north), into a garden. With the help of some machinery, garden beds were made and a range of plants installed in 2010. Sam profiled some of the species installed, including *Syzygium paniculatum* (Magenta Lilly Pilly), *Alpinia caerulea* (Native Ginger), *Elaeocarpus reticulatus* (Blueberry Ash), *Castanospermum australe* (Moreton Bay Chestnut) and *Tetragonia tetragonoides* (Warrigal Greens). These are must-haves in a bush tucker garden.

Other interesting species included *Rubus rosifolius* – a native raspberry found in rainforest margins in coastal NSW, as well as *Melodorum leichhardtii* (Zig Zag Vine) (now called [Uvaria leichhardtii](#)) – a rainforest vine from the north coast of NSW.



Uvaria leichhardtii, native banana, fruit and flower
(Ph: in a great [NPQueensland online](#) article)



Anetholia anisata
(ph: Marie O'Connor at [APS NSW online](#))

Leptospermum petersonii (Lemon-scented Teatree), *Austromyrtus dulcis* (Midyim Berry), *Anetholia anisata* (syn: *Backhousia anisata*) and *Macrozamia communis* (Burrawang) were also planted. Other common plants included in bush tucker gardens are *Citrus australasica* (Finger Lime, now very expensive to buy!!), *Podocarpus elatus* (Plum Pine), *Prostanthera ovalifolia* (Oval-leaf Mint Bush) and don't forget good-old

Macadamia integrifolia (Macadamia). Sam has had a few challenges with the garden, especially the heavy shade aspect. The garden virtually receives no sunlight in winter. But, she and her team have persevered and the garden is now a very attractive feature of the university. You can watch Costa Georgiadis exploring the garden at this Facebook link: [Hidden Gems Macquarie University's Bush Tucker Garden Nothing like coming across secret gems Of gardens when you least expect it. Come take a walk... | By Costa Georgiadis Official \(facebook.com\)](#)

Sam briefly showed her garden design work – where she installs mainly bush-tucker natives and encourages people to use these plants in place of exotics.

A very important initiative that Sam has been involved with is that of “Gardening Responsibly - Plant Sure” (found here: [Gardening Responsibly - Preserving Australian Biodiversity](#))

This is an initiative operated by a Consortium of Members from various horticultural, natural area-management and other stakeholder groups, to reduce the risk of horticultural plants becoming weeds in our natural landscapes. The idea is that certain species of plants will receive a certification by means of a label or “tick” under the scheme, that signifies that it is ecologically safe to plant and will not naturalise where they do not belong. We have to consider that non-local native plants, as well as exotics, can act as weeds in our local landscapes. Macquarie University is heading the research required for a massive list of commercial plant species, to determine if they can receive the certification under the Plant Sure Scheme. You can check a list of plants here at this link: [Check Your Choice - Gardening Responsibly](#)

Our members posed questions and comments about other native species and their potential as bush tucker. My personal opinion is that a lot of Australian native are ‘untapped’ and are likely hiding many secrets in terms of their culinary and medicinal potential. We thank Sam for an enthusiastic and informative talk.

Dan Clarke

On the plant table

The plant table is a great way to see what grows well in Sutherland Shire and what flowers when. Please free to email some photos in addition to showing the plant specimens at the meeting. These may be included in the newsletter. You can email by reply to the newsletter or to Dan Clarke at: dmclarkebotanical@icloud.com

Plant steward Phil Keane’s nursery, [Ausplants R Us](#), is in Sutherland. Visits by appointment or check out sale days (often Saturday 12 – 4:30) on <https://www.facebook.com/ausplants/>
Ph: 0435 410 857 or ausplantsrus@gmail.com
...and some will also be on the [APS online plant profile database](#)

Food plants featured this month. Leonie also cooked up some tasty dips to start with featuring ingredients such as lemon myrtle and commelina. We’d love to hear about your experiences getting bush tucker out of your garden and onto your dinner plate. Have you tried Pigface chips?

Eupomatia laurina (Bolwarra / Copper Laurel, family Eupomatiaceae). A locally native tree to rainforest areas, such as the Royal NP and similar areas. It grows to about 5 metres tall with spindly branches and large fleshy green leaves to 10 cm long and 5 cm wide.

The flowers are white with linear petals. They are pollinated by a single species of weevil. Can be cultivated, they grow slowly but reliably. Best grown on an enriched sandy soil.

Austromyrtus dulcis (Midgenberry, family Myrtaceae). A native of NSW restricted to the north-coast region of NSW, it is popular in cultivation. Growing to only 0.5 m tall, it can be used as a hedge and dense groundcover. Popular for its sweet-tasting berries, it has a myrtle-like appearance with lanceolate green leaves. Give a sunny to sheltered position with good drainage and some soil enrichment. Very attractive shrub. Needs to be pruned to remove dead and damaged foliage.

Carpobrotus glaucescens (Pigface, F. Aizoaceae). A herbaceous easy-to-identify groundcover with its succulent leaves and pink radiate flowers, it grows in sand dunes along the entire NSW Coast and interstate. It can form dense mats and be used to stabilise sandy slopes and dunes.

The metallic pink flowers make it very showy. The leaves and fruits can be eaten. Can be used to form a dense mat or can spill over a retaining wall.

Grow in sandy soil in full sun.

Backhousia citriodora (Lemon Myrtle, F. Myrtaceae) A very popular native myrtle which strongly aromatic lemon-leaves, popular for tea-making and other culinary uses. Endemic to QLD in subtropical rainforests between Mackay and Brisbane. It can grow to 20 m tall but will take a while to get there, it has conspicuous white-cream flowers at the terminals and broad leathery

leaves. Plant in an enriched soil with good drainage. Prune to a desirable shape. Very hardy. Propagate from cuttings.



B. citriodora flowering in February (Ph: P.Shelton)

Alpinia caerulea (Native Ginger, F. Zingiberaceae) A rainforest clumping plant (monocot), to 3 metres tall, spreading to 1-m wide, growing along the coast from Gosford to Cape York. It has large herbaceous leaves and pretty white flowers on elevated spikes, which then form dark blue capsules. The root can be used in place of culinary ginger although with a more subtle flavour. It is a great addition to rainforest gardens and useful for a shady patch.

Tetragonia tetragonoides (Warrigal Greens / Native Spinach, F. Aizoaceae) A locally common ground-herb with conspicuous deltoid/triangular light green leaves to about 10 cm long and 5 cm wide, with a spongy thick texture. It produces small dainty yellow flowers in leaf axils. It is grown for being edible and is used more commonly as a greens-substitute (spinach / garnish etc). It is recommended to not eat it raw but to steam it for at least 10 minutes to remove harmful oxalic acid.

It grows naturally in saltmarsh and brackish areas on the coast, near waterways, but grows well in a garden from a cutting.

Persoonia pinifolia (Pine-leaved Geebung, F. Proteaceae) This is a shrub to about 4 m tall, found mainly on sandstone with a restricted distribution on the Central Coast of NSW. Has soft pine-needle foliage with sprays of individual yellow 4- tepaled flowers produced amongst the leaf axils. Conspicuous green drupes are then produced which ripen to purple Whilst not overly successful in gardens, more and more effort is going into *Persoonia* cultivation and this is one of the more reliable species. Can also produce new growth which is strikingly purple.

Plant in a free draining soil. Prune after flowering

to encourage a denser shape. A very beautiful plant that deserves one or two attempts.

Atriplex nummularia (Saltbush, F. Chenopodiaceae) A common shrub in the arid interior of Australia, growing in far western NSW and other states; it is commonly used in dry arid landscapes as well as other gardens. Grows to 3 metres tall potentially by 3 metres wide by can be pruned to make a dense shrub and hedge. Blue-green to grey leaves about 25 mm long. The flowers are not spectacular in salt bushes but the fruits are always interesting.

Very hardy plant on soils with good drainage and in full sun.

See some tips on how to get the culinary best out of your saltbush – [here](#) (youtube).

Ficus coronata (Sandpaper Fig, F. Moraceae) Native to NSW mainly in rainforest areas. It is potentially a small tree but usually a shrub. Rough (scabrous) upper leaf surfaces and hairy undersurfaces, with hairy figs. Grow in a good fertile soil with adequate drainage. May be useful in attracting birds. Specimens can be seen in Joseph banks Native Gardens.

Citrus australasica (Finger Lime, F. Rutaceae) Native to northern NSW and south-east Queensland, it is a large shrub growing to 6 m. Beware the prickly spines growing to 25 mm, so perhaps plant in a place where it can be admired and harvested but not in people's way. Flowers are white and leaves are aromatic. It does not do exceptionally well in southern Sydney but there is a large one going well at JB Native Plants Reserve. Popular in bush tucker – the fruit is highly desired. Give an enriched soil with good drainage and plenty of moisture.

There were also some mere ornamentals, such as those listed below.

Correa 'Moon Chimes' (F. Rutaceae) A compact correa cultivar to 60 x 60 cm. It is another of the 'Chimes' range. Beautiful white flowers produced in Autumn. A great shrub for a shady spot and with reliable moisture and drainage. Prune lightly after flowering.

Note: At the meeting, Dan thought he heard 'Moonbeam' but there does not seem to be any such cultivar).

Eremophila 'Kalbarri Carpet' (F. Schophulariaceae) A groundcover *Eremophila* which only grows to 20 cm high. Has soft grey foliage and golden tubular flowers produced all year. Has blue-grey leaves which provide an interesting contrast. Grows well in many soils, give full sun or part shade and good drainage. Do not over water.

Woolisia pungens (F. Ericaceae subfam. Epacridoideae) One of the 'epacrids' which is locally common in our sandstone bushland and one of the few things flowering in Autumn, though will also flower in winter and spring. It has slightly spiky clustered foliage that is interesting to touch and clusters of 5-petaled white to dark pink flowers which can be sweetly-scented. Is not as easy to grow as *Epacris longiflora* but is worth a try. Propagate from cuttings and give a free draining soil. Grows to potentially 2 metres high. Try it in a container first!

Epacris pulchella (Wallum Heath, F. Ericaceae subfam. Epacridoideae) A locally occurring shrub that is found along the coast, north from Conjola, extending into Queensland. It is easily seen in Sutherland Shire bushland. It is not commonly grown but appears very similar to *Woolisia pungens* (and can even grow alongside it). Could be trialled in a pot or in a sandstone-based garden, if plants can be sourced. It has a narrow habit, growing to about 2 metres tall (usually less).

Grevillea sericea (Pink Spider-flower, F. Proteaceae) A locally common shrub, mainly on sandstone country with pungent leaves and spider-like inflorescences ranging from light to dark pink. Bee-attracting. Easy to grow. There are some profusely flowering forms available.

Banksia plagiocarpa (Hinchinbrook Island

Banksia, F. Proteaceae) A large shrub to about 5 metres tall, with attractive serrated margins on some leaves. The inflorescences are about 10 cm long and pale yellow when open. It does best in sun or dappled shade in well drained soils and a frost free spot.

Isotoma axillaris (Rock Isotome, F. Lobeliaceae) A very attractive perennial herb found over much of NSW on rocky crevices and outcrops on granite or sandstone, it has strongly dissected thistle-like foliage and large bright purple star-shaped flowers at the terminals. They grow well if adequate moisture is given. Can also flower right through summer. Plant along borders for good affect. Prune back hard after flowering to encourage new growth and flowering the next season. Prefers a light, well-drained soil.

If you have excess stock of something in your garden that others may like, feel free to bring in some to our meetings – whether seeds, cutting material, seedlings or material to divide.

Dan Clarke

More information can be found at these websites:
www.anspa.org.au www.anbg.gov.au
plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au www.wikipedia.org
resources.austplants.com.au/plant-database/

Plus: Dan Clarke has all the monthly plant table information compiled in his *Plant Table Master List* document available from [our web site](#).

News and More

Membership

If you are not receiving the monthly APS NSW newsletter, please email newsletter@austrplants.com.au so we can sort out whether we have your correct email address in our records. Each monthly issue is emailed at the end of the previous month.

Membership renewal

Members receive an email from APS NSW when their membership is due through the year and can renew online on the APS website. Check your membership status with our treasurer Anne Webb at the next meeting or by phone.

More free books and magazines for new members

At the meeting, look out for books and back issues of *Australian Plants* journals from the collections of our members including Doug Rickard and others. A gold coin donation for significant books, but many available for free.

Update your first aid for free

In 2020, we received a federal government volunteer grant for first aid training. We still have some left. Members can complete the one day first aid course at the St George and Sutherland Community College at Jannali. It is held regularly through the year on Saturdays, approx. 9 am to 3 pm.

If you would like to attend, check the dates here www.sgcc.edu.au/courses/WorkSkills/first-aid-courses and contact and pay the college directly or phone 8543 7412. Let me know at rhDaniels@bigpond.com so we can keep track and reimburse you \$120 on course completion. We all benefit from up-to-date first aid knowledge.

Rhonda Daniels

Farewell Margaret Olde

Margaret, a true and longtime friend to Sutherland, Menai and APS died on 14 May of a catastrophic brain bleed.

She will be remembered by many for her wonderful organisation skills and behind the scenes work at many APS activities, exhibitions and indeed at our last Conference. She and her husband Peter have hosted hundreds of visitors to [the gardens at Silky Oaks](#), their Oakdale home. A special spot there is the wonderful fern house which was her special love.

Marg herself hated the spotlight but was at her best supporting others so their talents could shine and their dreams come true.

Sutherland Group offers our deepest sympathies to Peter, their family and friends for their great loss.

Leonie Hogue



30 years of Sutherland Shire BushCare: One volunteer's story

As an APS member in the 1990s, I had heard several other members, including Aileen Phipps, talk about volunteering for Bushcare. Around 2003, I wanted to do something practical with native plants, and decided to join a new Bushcare group which met on Sunday afternoon near Sutherland Leisure Centre, with Bushcare Officer Brad van Luyt. It was a small patch but in a highly visible spot. Luckily, there was no stormwater, so no new weeds. Due to the location, we always started with rubbish pick up. We created huge piles of lantana and pittosporums, and eventually even had a pile burn. Over time, the weeds and number of volunteers dwindled to just me, and the Bushcare Officer was reallocated to other sites.

I completed Certificate 2 in Conservation and Land Management through TAFE online, and later did Certificate 4 in Horticulture. In 2012, I was a one-person "group" at a small patch of land at the far end of my street, but the neighbours don't always have the same values. Then I started volunteering at a site adjoining Bonnet Bay Public School, funded under Council's Greenweb program where I met our very own Dan Clarke as the "Bushcare Officer". We started on Sundays, then moved to Fridays. Then Dan became busy with his other work and a contractor was appointed.

Over the years, I have also volunteered at Joseph Banks Reserve at the APS session on the first Sunday, and at the first Thursday Bushcare session since 2012 with Jason Salmon. After a period working on Sundays, looking round for a new site, I joined the Bushcare group at Hall Drive at Menai when Sabrina Thompson re-started it in mid 2020 on the third Saturday morning. I've also worked at Forestgrove at Menai. As part of the 30th anniversary activities in May, I worked at Koolangarra Reserve at Bonnet Bay on the second Monday morning, with Sabrina and Bushcare legend Michael Harrington, and broke my favourite weeding knife.

My Bushcare activities have varied from primary weeding of cutting down lantana and pittosporums, hacking out clumps of asparagus fern, pulling vines out of trees to hand weeding of Erharta (and lots of other grassy and shrubby weeds). Bushcare officers are always on hand to explain the best approach for each weed, and help ID the weeds from the natives. The number of times I keep asking about mock olive (*Notelaea*) – yes, it is a native! Some activities have more immediate visual impact, while others take longer to reveal the benefit of reducing weedy seedbanks.

What I have learned – the good news

- Regular attention can make a difference over time.
- Regeneration does occur, but sometimes planting is necessary for particularly degraded areas.
- Edges and paths, or anywhere with human contact, require the most attention.
- Moisture has a huge impact on weed growth – whether from stormwater runoff or rain.
- Each session, there's always something interesting to notice or learn about, whether it is a new species, flower, fruit, insect or animal (or unusual bit of rubbish).
- A tea break is important to have a chat and catch-up, and Bushcare officers know how to keep chocolate biscuits cool in summer!



Michael Harrington and Rhonda
(Photo supplied)

- It's important to get away from screens and enjoy our natural environments.

The not so good news

- Not everyone is necessarily working towards the same outcomes on sites. At Bonnet Bay, loads of mulch were dumped on site, and demountable buildings placed on top of new plantings, then an “asset protection zone” around the new buildings required brutal clearance of the understorey. Rubbish (litter and dumped material) on sites shows that not everyone values bushland.
- Spraying is important to control weeds, but needs to be done carefully to avoid collateral damage and huge areas of bare soil with no growth.
- PPE is vital, but gloves always wear out on my weeding finger, and while hats protect from skin cancer they increase the chances of hitting your head on a branch.
- You can never have too many white bags, but great if the designated litter bag could be a different colour.



Jason Salmon and Rhonda on a Bushcare flyer (photo supplied)

Final thoughts

- Bushcare sites throughout the Shire vary in the types of weeds and Bushcare activity. Find a site that suits you, in what you like to do, and in the time it is on (weekday, weekend, morning or afternoon). You can join the email lists for several groups in your vicinity so if you can't make the same date every month, there's still something you can do.
- Volunteers do make a difference, and we need more of them.

Find out more about Sutherland Council Bushcare, including the quarterly *Bushcare Bulletin* with a list of sites at: <https://www.sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/bushcare>

Rhonda Daniels

The platypus have landed

After a little bit of a false start, the platypus release into the royal was undertaken. Here is a link to an article [in the St George and Sutherland Leader](#).

A detailed ABC TV news story is available [here](#).

For more platypus stories, try the [The Platypus Guardian](#)



Right: Platypus release in RNP (Ph: R. Freeman, UNSW)

In flower at Joseph Banks Reserve



While scrambling around weeding in the Sunny garden suddenly a shrub with banksia flowers caught my eye, but not our local *B. ericifolia* and *B. spinulosa* which are looking fantastic right now with their orange and golden spikes. This was [Banksia praemorsa](#). It has 3 reddish flower spikes – one at about 1 m high and the other 2 lower down, and more developing.

It is one of the hardier banksias from WA for our humid summers. I think I may even have bought and planted this, but don't remember it flowering before. Maybe it is liking our drier conditions? Then again, it is hidden behind a *Hakea nitida* (also from WA) which is just about to burst into flower, and a *Grevillea semperflorens*, several metres into the garden bed between the path south of the pond and the western fence. The common name of cut-leaf banksia and the species name (meaning bitten off) refer to the appearance of the ends of the leaves. Unfortunately, it was difficult to get a good photo in the heavy shade! (see left)

Rhonda Daniels

Fancy a weekend outing in the Southern Tablelands of NSW — with a difference?

There is a choice of dates from August to October. A NSW sheep farmer is inviting volunteers to his working 1200ha property in the Southern Tablelands of NSW to assist in the on-going efforts to recreate an open woodland environment by planting locally sourced tubestock and assisting with associated works. The farm is an environmentally credentialed and award winning producer of top grade table lamb.

Approximately 250km from Sydney, the farm is located on the Upper Lachlan River near Dalton, a small country town that is 58km by road west of Goulburn.

Oatley Flora and Fauna have been working at the site during spring for the last two years and you are invited to join their members for a choice from five weekend working-bees on the property (August to October). There is also a mid-week opportunity in mid September.

Volunteers will provide their own form of (camp) accommodation and food and there are basic camping facilities at the site plus shearers kitchen, hot showers and power, or, you may wish to stay at Goulburn, Gunning, Crookwell or Yass.

The locality is central to a variety of Tablelands Nature Reserves and a little over an hour from Canberra for those looking for a longer stay in the region.

Contact Call or text Adrian Polhill (0424 478 498), or email adrianpolhill@hotmail.com (at Oatley Flora and Fauna) to register you interest or have any questions.

John Arney

A favourite bush food plant

My finger lime gets NO attention, unless I remember when it is flowering and I might give it a little water. It fruits prolifically every year, no idea what the pollinator is, although I think I remember European honey bees on it one year. Only the one plant and I don't think any of the nearby neighbours have one.

My variety is called Finger Lime "Crystal", not sure if grafted or not, but purchased from Heathcote native nursery for \$29.95 in 2015, according to my records. It's in mostly sun, with some shade in the cooler months from afternoon sun. Needs pruning to try and keep it to a reasonable height. I counted over 100 fruit in one year. About 2m high.

Ralph Cartwright



If undeliverable, return to:
Australian Plants Society, Sutherland Group
169 Peninsular Road
Grays Point NSW 2232

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